

CLAIMS

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1. A method of interfacing to a user, the method comprising:  
using a data connection to receive a plurality of descriptions of audio  
contents;  
receiving from the user a selection of a first description from among the  
plurality of descriptions; and  
placing a voice call to play a first audio content described by the first  
description in response to the selection.
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2. The method of Claim 1 wherein each audio content in the plurality is  
associated with a telephone number, the method further includes:  
using the data connection to receive a telephone number, and dialing the  
telephone number during the placing of voice call.
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3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the telephone number is hereinafter "first  
telephone number", the method further comprising, after termination of said voice call:  
receiving a plurality of additional descriptions of additional audio  
contents; and
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- placing another voice call to a second telephone number, wherein said  
second telephone number is different from said first telephone number.
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4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising, after termination of said voice  
call:  
receiving a plurality of additional descriptions of additional audio  
contents; and  
placing another voice call to said telephone number to play an additional  
audio content.
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5. The method of Claim 4 further comprising:  
dynamically assigning a different one of a plurality of predetermined  
phone numbers to each of a plurality of descriptions to be displayed as a group to  
the user for selection therein.

6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

using the selection of first description identified by the data connection to play the audio content during the voice call.

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7. The method of Claim 1 wherein:

each of the data connection and the voice call are respectively formed with a first logic and a second logic; and

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the method includes the first logic providing information about the user to the second logic.

8. The method of Claim 7 wherein:

the information being provided includes an identifier of an audio content currently described to the user.

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9. The method of Claim 8 further comprising:

receiving a plurality of calls from a corresponding plurality of users; and matching the audio content to be played with a call, based on an identifier obtained from a wireless handset of the user.

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10. The method of Claim 7 further comprising:

retrieving each of the audio contents from the Internet.

11. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

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visually displaying the descriptions on a monitor of a wireless handset.

12. The method of Claim 11 further comprising, prior to said using:

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using the data connection to receive a plurality of categories;  
visually displaying the categories on the monitor; and  
requesting said plurality of descriptions in response to selection of a category in said plurality of categories;

wherein said plurality of descriptions are all classified under said category.

13. The method of Claim 11 wherein:  
the selected category is news;  
each description is a news headline; and  
each of the audio contents is a news report that provides details related to  
said news headline.

14. The method of Claim 11 further comprising:  
using the data connection to receive a plurality of additional categories;  
visually displaying the additional categories on the monitor; and  
requesting said plurality of categories in response to selection of an  
additional category.

15. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:  
terminating the voice call on completion of playing of the first audio  
content.

16. The method of Claim 1 wherein:  
the data connection is suspended during the voice call.

17. The method of Claim 1 wherein:  
each description is different in content from another description.

18. The method of Claim 1 wherein:  
during the act of visually displaying, telephone numbers corresponding to  
the descriptions are not displayed.

19. The method of Claim 1 wherein:  
said placing of voice call is performed automatically in response to said  
selection of first description.

20. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:  
displaying a telephone number to be used in the voice call in response to  
the selection; and

performing said placing of voice call only after receiving a response from the user to dial the phone number being displayed.

21. The method of Claim 20 wherein:

5 said receiving a response is one of: detecting pressing of a button, detecting touching of a monitor, and detecting a voice command.

22. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

10 using the data connection to receive a plurality of phone numbers for a corresponding plurality of descriptions.

23. The method of Claim 22 wherein:

15 said phone numbers and said descriptions are received as portions of a single message.

24. The method of Claim 22 wherein:

said descriptions are received in a first message; and  
said phone numbers are received in a second message.

20 25. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

transmitting the selection over the data connection; and  
receiving from the data connection a telephone number to be used during  
said placing of voice call.

25 26. The method of Claim 1 wherein:

each of said acts of using data connection and placing voice call includes  
using a wireless medium.

27. The method of Claim 1 wherein:

30 said voice call is not a Voice Over IP call.

28. A method of interfacing to a user, the method comprising:

using a data connection to receive a description of an audio content;

receiving from the user a command to play the audio content; and  
placing a voice call to play the audio content in response to the command.

29. The method of Claim 28 further comprising:

each of the data connection and the voice call are respectively formed with  
a first logic and a second logic, and  
the method includes the first logic providing information about the user to  
the second logic.

30. The method of Claim 29 wherein:

the information being provided includes an identifier of an audio content  
currently described to the user.

31. A handheld device comprising:

a keypad;  
a monitor;  
a memory encoded with a plurality of descriptions of audio contents and at  
least one telephone number related to playing of at least one of said audio  
contents;

a microprocessor coupled to the memory, the keypad, and to the monitor;

a transceiver coupled to the microprocessor; and

a speaker coupled to the transceiver.

32. The handheld device of Claim 31 wherein:

the memory holds a plurality of telephone numbers including said  
telephone number, each telephone number corresponding to a description.

33. The handheld device of Claim 31 wherein:

the microprocessor retrieves from memory the telephone number and  
passes said telephone number to the transceiver for set up of a voice call in  
response to a signal from said keypad.

34. The handheld device of Claim 33 wherein:

said transceiver plays said at least one audio content on said speaker in response to setup of said voice call.

5        35.     The handheld device of Claim 31 wherein:  
             each description in said plurality identifies a headline of a news story.

10       36.     The handheld device of Claim 31 further comprising:  
             an antenna;  
             wherein the transceiver includes wireless circuitry coupled to the antenna.

15       37.     A system comprising:  
             a plurality of storage elements including a first group of said storage  
             elements holding a plurality of descriptions of a corresponding plurality of audio  
             contents and a second group of said storage elements holding said audio contents;  
             a first logic coupled to said first group of storage elements to receive  
             therefrom a group of said descriptions, said first logic being coupled to a data  
             communication network to provide thereto said group of descriptions; and  
             a second logic coupled to said second group of storage elements to receive  
             therefrom an audio content, said second logic being coupled to a telephony  
20       network to provide thereto said audio content, said second logic being further  
             coupled to said first logic to receive therefrom an identification of said audio  
             content;  
             wherein said audio content is one of a plurality of audio contents described  
             in said group of descriptions.

25       38.     The system of Claim 37 wherein:  
             said first logic includes a modem or a router; and  
             said second logic includes a telephone call processing circuit.

30       39.     The system of Claim 37 wherein:  
             the plurality includes a third group of storage elements holding a database  
             that relates a cell phone number of a user to a subscriber ID of a cell phone  
             possessed by the user.

40. The system of Claim 37 further comprising:

a handheld device having a monitor capable of displaying said group of descriptions, the handheld device further having a speaker and a transceiver capable of playing said audio content on the speaker;

wherein the handheld device receives said group of descriptions from said first logic over a data connection, identifies a description in said group that describes said audio content to said first logic over said data connection, and receives said audio content from said second logic over a voice call.

41. The system of Claim 40 wherein:

the transceiver includes wireless circuitry.

42. The system of Claim 40 wherein:

the handheld device has the form factor of a cell phone.

43. A method of interfacing to a user, the method comprising:

using a data connection to receive a number of descriptions of audio content;

displaying the descriptions to the user;

receiving from the user a command to play one of the audio contents described by the descriptions;

placing a voice call in response to the command;

playing said audio content to the user during the voice call; and

returning to using the data connection in response to completion of the voice call.

44. The method of Claim 43 further comprising:

using an available telephone number to generate an instruction for said placing of voice call.

45. The method of Claim 44 further comprising:

forming an association between said telephone number and said audio  
content; and

using said association on receipt of said voice call at said telephone  
number in identifying said audio content for said playing.

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46. The method of Claim 44 further comprising:  
identifying the user on receipt of said voice call; and  
using identity of the user on receipt of said voice call to identify said audio  
content for said playing.

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47. The method of Claim 43 further comprising:  
displaying to the user a plurality of categories of audio contents; and  
receiving from the user a selection of a category prior to said using of data  
connection.

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48. The method of Claim 47 wherein:  
at least one of said categories relates to news; and  
each description in said plurality identifies a news service.

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49. The method of Claim 47 further comprising:  
displaying to the user a plurality of subcategories of audio contents; and  
receiving from the user a selection of a subcategory prior to said using of  
data connection;  
wherein each subcategory relates to a news service and each description  
relates to a headline of a news story.

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50. A computer readable storage medium encoded with instructions to  
perform the method of Claim 43.

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51. A signal encoded in a carrier medium and including instructions to  
perform the method of Claim 43.

52. A method of interfacing to a user, the method comprising:



a first computer using a data connection to transmit a plurality of  
categories of audio content;  
a handheld device visually displaying the categories to the user;  
the handheld device receiving from the user a selection of a first category  
5 from said plurality of categories;

the first computer using said data connection to transmit a number of  
descriptions of audio content in said first category;  
the handheld device visually displaying the descriptions to the user;  
the handheld device receiving from the user a command to play one of the  
10 audio contents described by the descriptions;  
the handheld device placing a voice call in response to the command;  
a second computer playing said audio content during the voice call; and  
the handheld device using the data connection in response to completion  
of the voice call.

15 53. The method of Claim 52 further comprising:  
the handheld device repeating the act of visually displaying said  
descriptions to the user after completion of the voice call.

20 54. The method of Claim 52 further comprising:  
the second computer identifying the user on receipt of said voice call.

55. A system comprising:  
means for placing a telephone call over a wireless network and for visually  
25 displaying data;  
means for supplying descriptions of audio selections as data to the means  
for placing; and  
means for playing an audio selection to the means for placing.

30 56. The system of Claim 55 wherein:  
the means for playing and the means for supplying are implemented in a  
single computer.

57. The system of Claim 55 wherein:  
the means for playing is implemented in a first computer;  
the means for supplying is implemented in a second computer; and  
the first computer is coupled to the second computer to exchange  
5 information that correlates a description to an audio selection.

58. The system of Claim 55 wherein:  
the means for placing receives the data through a wireless data connection  
to the means for supplying; and  
10 the means for placing receives the audio selection through a voice call to  
the means for playing.